

Appendix J: Wild and Scenic River Policy, Inventory, and Findings

Black Rock High Rock NCA Wild and Scenic River Inventory Process

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (October 2, 1968, Public Law 90-542) requires the Bureau of Land Management to consider wild and scenic river values in its land use planning process. The objective of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is to preserve in free-flowing condition selected rivers in the Nation which possess outstandingly remarkable values and to protect those rivers and their immediate environments for the benefit of present and future generations.

Policy requires BLM to “identify and evaluate river segments within the resource management planning process to determine eligibility, tentative classification, protection requirements, and suitability under the Wild and Scenic River Act.” The procedures by which the BLM determines eligibility and suitability and provides management direction are described in the USDI-USDA Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas (*Federal Register* Vol. 47, No. 173, September 7, 1982) and BLM Manual 8351.

Step I. Initial Inventory of Streams/Rivers in the Planning Area

Assessing eligibility of individual river segments for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System was accomplished by a team of BLM specialists. The team used personal knowledge, and Geographic Information System (GIS) resource and land information to conduct the evaluations. This inventory and recommendation only pertains to those stream segments on public land.

Because there are hundreds of dry washes, gullies and canyons as well as perennial, ephemeral, and intermittent streams within the planning area an objective method of selecting which drainages would be assessed for eligibility was developed.

It was determined that to be included in the assessment process the drainage would need to meet the one of the following criteria:

1. The stream would need to support some type of riparian vegetation community. (i.e. aspens, cottonwoods, willows, red osier dogwood, reeds, sedges, etc...) or
2. If the stream did not meet the above criteria but had the potential for having one of the “Outstandingly Remarkable Values” outlined in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it would also be assessed for eligibility.

Table 1 shows all of the stream segments in the planning area that were assessed in the WSR inventory and their potential outstandingly remarkable values, if any.

Table 1. Wild and Scenic River Inventory BRHR NCA RMP
(Streams Evaluated for Eligibility)

Inventoried Streams General Area/Stream Name	Free Flowing	Potential outstandingly remarkable values							
		Scenery	Recreation	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	Prehistory	History	Other Values
High Rock Canyon Wilderness									
High Rock Canyon Creek	Y	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Yellow Rock Canyon Creek	Y	X		X			X	X	
Grassy Canyon Creek	Y								
Mahogany Creek (High Rock tributary)	Y	X		X		X	X	X	
East Fork High Rock Canyon Wilderness									
E.F. High Rock Canyon Creek	Y	X	X	X				X	
Cottonwood Creek	Y								
Wall Canyon Creek	Y								
Little High Rock Canyon Wilderness									
Little High Rock Canyon Creek	Y	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Willow Creek (McConnell Canyon)	Y	X		X					
High Rock Lake Wilderness									
Fly Canyon Creek	Y	X	X	X				X	
Box Canyon Creek	Y			X					
Willow Creek	Y								
Cherry Creek	Y								
Donnelly Creek	Y				X				
Calico Mountains Wilderness									
Cow Creek	Y								
Cottonwood Creek	Y								
North Black Rock Range Wilderness									
Soldier Creek	Y								
Coleman Creek	Y				X				
Snow Creek (WA and "sliver")	Y				X				
Slumgullion Creek	Y								
North Fork Battle Creek	Y				X				
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout ISA									
Mahogany Creek (ISA)	Y	X	X		X				
Summer Camp Creek	Y	X	X		X				
Pole Creek	Y								
Pahute Peak Wilderness									
Clapper Creek	Y							X	
Sheep Creek	Y								
Indian Creek	Y								
Black Rock Desert Wilderness Area									
Paiute Creek (BR Desert Section)	Y								
Battle Creek (BR Desert Section)	Y								
Leonard Creek (BR Desert Section)	Y								
Jackson Creek Slough	Y								
Quinn River	Y		X						
North Jackson Mountains Wilderness									
Happy Creek	Y				X				
Deer Creek (Jackson Mountains)	Y								
Mike O'Brien Canyon Creek	Y								
Blind Canyon Creek	Y								
New Years Canyon Creek	Y								
Unnamed Creek north of Blind Canyon	Y								
South Jackson Mountains Wilderness									
Mcgill Canyon Creek	Y								
Alaska Canyon Creek	Y								
Bliss Canyon Creek	Y								
Hobo Canyon Creek	Y								
Christiorsson Canyon Creek	Y								
Shawnee Creek	Y								
Bull Creek	Y								
Little Cedar Creek	Y								
Big Cedar Creek	Y								
Louse Creek	Y								

Step II. Determining Eligibility

Following criteria established in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and outlined in Bureau of Land Management Manual 8351, the team determined whether or not each of the inventory segments was free-flowing and possessed one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). The values considered were: scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, prehistoric, and other similar values such as ecological (riparian), botanical. A tentative classification of wild, scenic or recreational was also made for each eligible stream segment. The region of comparison for the outstandingly remarkable values was the Northern Great Basin.

The following guidelines were followed when conducting eligibility evaluation:

1. Threatened and endangered species known to occur in the stream corridor automatically became an outstandingly remarkable value.
2. Potential wildlife habitat without confirmed species sightings did not become an outstandingly remarkable value.
3. Habitat for common wildlife species was not an outstandingly remarkable value.
4. Cultural and paleontological sites were used as supporting outstandingly remarkable values only, one of these sites by itself did not warrant preliminary listing.

Table 2 shows those study streams found to be eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation.

Table 2. Study Stream Segments found Eligible

Segment Name	Segment Description and approximate length of segment	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Tentative Classification (Recreational, Scenic, Wild)
High Rock Canyon Creek	21 miles of the stream from its headwaters in Upper High Rock Canyon to the private property boundary near High Rock Lake.	Scenic Geologic Historic Prehistoric	All Scenic
Mahogany Creek (High Rock Tributary)	4 miles of the stream from where the stream crosses the southern boundary of the High Rock Canyon Wilderness to it's confluence with High Rock Canyon Creek.	Scenic Geologic Historic Prehistoric	All Wild
East Fork High Rock Canyon Creek	5.8 miles from where the stream starts entering the canyon below Bernard's Corral to it's confluence with High Rock Canyon Creek.	Scenic Geologic Historic Recreation	All Wild
Little High Rock Canyon Creek	6 miles of the stream from the private property boundary at the head of the canyon to the private property boundary at the mouth of the canyon.	Scenic Geologic Historic Prehistoric	All Wild

Table 2. Study Stream Segments found Eligible (cont'd)

Segment Name	Segment Description and approximate length of segment	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Tentative Classification (Recreational, Scenic, Wild)
Fly Canyon Creek	4 miles from where the stream enters Fly canyon north of High Rock Lake to the private property boundary east of the High Rock Lake Wilderness boundary.	Scenic Geologic Historic	All Wild
Donnelly Creek	7.2 miles from the streams headwaters east of Division Peak to the private property boundary near the Soldier Meadows Road.	Fish	6.2 miles Wild 1 mile Scenic (1/2 mile upstream and downstream from the road crossing)
Coleman Creek	10 miles from the streams headwaters to it's confluence with Soldier Creek.	Fish Scenery	All Wild
Snow Creek	3miles from the streams headwaters to the Summit Lake Reservation boundary.	Fish	2 miles Wild 1 mile Scenic (1/2 mile upstream and downstream from the road crossing)
North Fork of Battle Creek	2.5 miles from the streams headwaters to the wilderness boundary (excluding the segments in the two private parcels)	Fish Scenery	All Wild
Mahogany Creek (ISA)	6 miles from the streams headwaters to the Summit Lake Reservation boundary	Fish Scenery	4 miles Wild 2 miles Scenic
Summer Camp Creek	3.6 miles from the streams headwaters to the confluence with Mahogany Creek. (Excluding the segments in the private parcels)	Fish Scenery	2 miles Scenic 1.6 miles Wild
Clapper Creek	3 miles from the streams headwaters to where it leaves the canyon and flows through the alluvial fan.	Historic	1 mile Scenic 2 miles Wild
Happy Creek	7 miles from the streams headwaters to the wilderness boundary. All headwaters of Happy Creek are included.	Fish	2.5 miles Scenic 4.5 miles Wild
Mary Sloan Creek	3.7 miles from the private property boundary on the upper section of stream to the wilderness boundary.	Fish	All Wild
Soldier Meadows Hot Spring Creek	1.5 miles from the headwaters to the private property boundary	Fish Recreational Other (Plants) Historic	1.5 miles Scenic
Quinn River	49 miles from the northern boundary of the Black Rock Desert Wilderness to the western arm of the playa.	Recreational	42 Wild 7 Scenic

Step III. Making Suitability Recommendations

The final step in the process is the determination of suitability. This step provides the basis for determining which rivers should be recommended for addition to the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers. Suitability recommendations will vary with Alternatives. Under the “No Action Alternative” a Wild and Scenic River assessment would not occur and therefore no rivers would be recommended suitable.

The BLM team used the following questions to guide their recommendations for suitability:

1. Should the river’s free flowing character, water quality, and ORV’s be protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
2. Will the river’s free flowing character, water quality, and ORV’s be protected through designation?
3. Is it the best method for protecting the river corridor?

Under Alternative A, all eligible sections would be recommended suitable. Under Alternative B, only those stream segments outside of wilderness would be found suitable, because wilderness designation provides sufficient protection and the protection of their Outstandingly Remarkable Values would not be further increased. Under the No Action Alternative and Alternative C, no streams would be recommended suitable. Table 3 shows the suitability recommendations for the various alternatives.

Table 3. Suitability Recommendations by Alternative

Segment Name	No Action	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C
High Rock Canyon Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not suitable
Mahogany Creek (High Rock Tributary)	Not suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not suitable
East Fork High Rock Canyon Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not suitable
Little High Rock Canyon Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not suitable
Fly Canyon	Not suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not suitable
Donnelly Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not suitable
Coleman Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not suitable
Snow Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Wilderness Section not suitable “Sliver” section suitable	Not suitable
North Fork of Battle Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Not suitable	Not suitable
Mahogany Creek ISA	Not suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not suitable
Summer Camp Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not suitable
Clapper Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not suitable
Happy Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not suitable
Mary Sloan Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not suitable
Soldier Meadows Hot Spring Creek	Not suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not suitable
Quinn River	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

No Action Alternative

Of the 16 river segments found eligible for Wild and Scenic River status designation, no streams would be recommended as suitable for such designation.

Alternative A

All 16 stream segments (137.3 miles) found eligible would be recommended suitable.

Alternative B

Only five streams (34.1 miles) would be recommended suitable and receive additional protection by Wild and Scenic River designation. These streams include: Soldier Meadows Hot Springs Creek, Summer Camp Creek, Mahogany Creek (WSA), Snow Creek (outside of wilderness), and High Rock Canyon Creek.

Alternative C

Because existing designations (NCA, Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, and ACECs) provide sufficient protection for the streams, none of stream segments would be recommended suitable.